UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/614,751	07/07/2003	John A. Hicks III	60027.0181USU3/BS030002	6150

39262 7590 05/02/2007

MERCHANT & GOULD BELLSOUTH CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 2903
MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55402

EXAMINER	
ADDY, ANTHONY S	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2617	

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
05/02/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/614,751	HICKS ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Anthony S. Addy	2617	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *29 March 2007*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1,3-11,13-17,27-36,39-44 and 47-58* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1,3-11,13-17,27-36,39-44 and 47-58* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on March 29, 2007 has been entered. New **claim 58** has been added. **Claims 1, 3-11, 13-17, 27-36, 39-44** and **47-58** are now pending in the present application.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments with respect to **claims 1, 3-11, 13-17, 27-36, 39-44** and **47-58** have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

> The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Claims **1, 3-7, 27-34** and **29-42** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

With respect to claim 1, applicant recites the limitation "the first handset" on line 11 of claim 1, however there is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

With respect to claim 27, applicant recites the limitation "the first handset" on line 15 of claim 1, however there is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

With respect to claims 3-7, 28-34 and 29-42, they include the same issues explained above for parent claims 1 and 27, and are rejected for the same reasons explained above.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

6. Claims **1, 3-11, 13-17, 27-31, 33-36, 39-44, 47-54** and **56-58** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by **Jones et al., U.S. Publication Number 2004/0219948 A1 (hereinafter Jones)**.

Regarding claims 1 and 27, Jones teaches a system (100) for providing a single telephone number for use with a digital cordless handset (10) and with a second handset (142) (see p. 4 [0041], p. 5 [0045] and Fig. 2), the system comprising: a wireless access point (130) wired to a wired data network (122), the wireless access point (130) having a means for communicating with the digital cordless handset (10) via a wireless connection (132) to provide wireless access to the wired data network (packet-switched network 122) for the digital cordless handset (10) (see p. 4 [0034-0035] and Fig. 2); and a media gateway (124) having, means for interfacing with a data switch (STP 113) including programming means to respond to a routing information in a layer of a switching protocol to route data packets to the at least one of the first handset and the second handset (see p. 4 [0032] and Fig. 2), means for enabling the wireless access point to generate a ring tone at the digital cordless handset (10), wherein a call directed toward the second handset (142) corresponding to a single telephone number on a telecommunications network is received at the media gateway (124) (see p. 5 [0042 & 0045] and p. 6 [0052]), the telecommunications network generating a ring tone corresponding to a call at the second handset (142) (see *Jones*, p. 4 [0041] & p. 5 [0042 & 0045]), and means for linking the telecommunications network (PSTN 110) to the wired data network (packet-switched network 122) (see p. 4 [0032] and Fig. 2), wherein the digital cordless handset and the second handset using the telecommunications network, are assigned a single telephone number (see *Jones*, p. 4 [0041] & p. 5 [0042 & 0045]).

Regarding claim 3, Jones teaches all the limitations of claim 2. Jones further teaches a system, wherein the ring tone is generated substantially simultaneously at the digital cordless handset and the second handset (see *Jones*, p. 4 [0041] & p. 5 [0042 & 0045] [i.e. the teaching of Jones that a call to telephones 10, 140 & 142 with the same LDN will ring the telephones 10, 140 & 142 simultaneously meets the limitations of "the ring tone is generated substantially simultaneously at the digital cordless handset and the second handset"]).

Regarding claim 4, Jones teaches all the limitations of claim 1. Jones further teaches a system, wherein the telecommunications network comprises a public switched telephone network (see p. 4 [0032] and Fig. 2; shows a PSTN 110).

Regarding claim 5, Jones teaches all the limitations of claim 4. Jones further teaches a system, wherein the second handset comprises at least one wired handset connected to the public switched telephone network (see p. 4 [0032], p. 5 [0042] and Fig. 2; shows a PSTN 110).

Regarding claim 6, Jones teaches all the limitations of claim 1. Jones further teaches a system, wherein the telecommunications network comprises a wireless telecommunications network comprising means for providing wireless telecommunications on regulated wireless communications frequencies (see p. 1 [0012] and p. 3 [0023]).

Regarding claim 7, Jones teaches all the limitations of claim 6. Jones further teaches a system, wherein the second handset comprises means for communicating

with the wireless telecommunications network via the wireless communications frequencies (see p. 1 [0012] and p. 3 [0023]).

Regarding claim 8, Jones teaches a method for providing a single telephone number for use with a plurality of handsets (10, 140 & 142) (see p. 4 [0041], p. 5 [0045] and Fig. 2), the method comprising: assigning a single telephone number to a first handset (10) using a first telecommunications network (PSTN 110), wherein the first telecommunication network (PSTN 110) comprises one or more wireless access points wired to a wired data network (packet-switched network 122) (see p. 3 [0029], p. 4 [0034-0035] and Fig. 2); assigning the single telephone number to a second handset (142) using a second telecommunications network (WLAN 120) (see p. 4 [0041] & p. 5 [0042 & 0045]); providing wireless access via the wireless access points to the wired data network for the first handset over a wireless connection (132) (see p. 4 [0034-0035] and Fig. 2); and enabling a media gateway (124) to receive a call directed toward the second handset corresponding to the single telephone number on the second telecommunications network (see p. 4 [0041] & p. 5 [0042 & 0045]), the media gateway (124) interfacing with a data switch (STP 113) for routing information in a layer of a switching protocol to at least one of the first handset and the second handset (see p. 4 [0032] and Fig. 2), the media gateway enabling one of the wireless access points to generate a ring tone at the first handset, the second telecommunications network generating a ring tone corresponding to the call at the second handset (see *Jones*, p. 4 [0041] & p. 5 [0042 & 0045]), the media gateway linking the second telecommunications

network (WLAN 120) to the wired data network (packet-switched network 122) (see p. 4 [0031-0032] and Fig. 2).

Regarding claim 9, Jones teaches all the limitations of claim 8. Jones further teaches a method, detecting an incoming communication from a calling party to the single telephone number; and in response to detection of the incoming communication, placing outgoing communications to the first handset and the second handset (see p. 3 [0030], p. 4 [0041] and p. 5 [0042 & 0045]).

Regarding claim 10, Jones teaches all the limitations of claim 9. Jones further teaches a method, connecting the incoming communication to the first handset to be answered of either the first handset or the second handset (see p. 3 [0030], p. 4 [0041] and p. 5 [0042 & 0045]).

Regarding claim 13, Jones teaches all the limitations of claim 8. Jones further teaches a method, wherein the first handset comprises a digital cordless handset for communicating with the one or more wireless access points via the unregulated wireless connection (see p. 1 [0013], p. 3 [0023] and p. 5 [0048]).

Regarding claim 14, Jones teaches all the limitations of claim 8. Jones further teaches a method, wherein the second network comprises a wireless network providing wireless telecommunications on regulated wireless communications frequencies (see p. 1 [0012] and p. 3 [0023]).

Regarding claim 15, Jones teaches all the limitations of claim 14. Jones further teaches a method, wherein the second handset comprises a wireless device

communicating with the wireless network via the wireless communications frequencies (see p. 1 [0012] and p. 3 [0023]).

Regarding claim 16, Jones teaches all the limitations of claim 8. Jones further teaches a method, wherein the second network comprises a public switched telephone network (see p. 4 [0032] and Fig. 2; shows a PSTN 110).

Regarding claim 17, Jones teaches all the limitations of claim 16. Jones further teaches a method, wherein the second handset comprises a wired handset connected to the public switched telephone network (see p. 5 [0042] and Fig. 2).

Regarding claim 28, Jones teaches all the limitations of claim 27. Jones further teaches a system, further comprising means for placing outgoing calls to the digital cordless handset and the second handset, in response to receiving the incoming call directed to the telephone number; and means for connecting the incoming call to the first handset to be answered of either the digital cordless handset or the second handset (see p. 3 [0030], p. 4 [0041] and p. 5 [0042 & 0045]).

Regarding claims 11 and 29, Jones teaches all the limitations of claims 10 and 27. Jones further teaches a method, dropping each of the outgoing communications other than the outgoing communication associated with the first handset to be answered (see p. 3 [0030], p. 4 [0041] and p. 5 [0042 & 0045]).

Regarding claim 31, Jones teaches all the limitations of claim 1. Jones further teaches a system, wherein the means for communicating is wired to the wired data network through a broadband residential gateway comprising a broadband modem and a router, the broadband residential gateway comprises means for enabling being

configured to enable means for communicating to connect to the wired data network (see p. 4 [0037] and Fig. 2).

Regarding claims 33, 34, 35, 36, 39, 40, 56 and 57, Jones teaches all the limitations of claims 1, 8, 27 and 47. Jones further teaches the wireless connection comprises an unregulated wireless connection, and wherein the unregulated wireless connection comprises a connection providing wireless service using at least one frequency not assigned to a service provider (see p. 1 [0013] and p. 3 [0023]).

Regarding claims 41 and 43, Jones teaches all the limitations of claims 6 and 14. Jones further teaches a method, wherein the wireless communications frequencies comprise regulated wireless communications frequencies (see p. 1 [0012] and p. 3 [0023]).

Regarding claims 42 and 44, Jones teaches all the limitations of claims 41 and 43. Jones further teaches a method, wherein the regulated wireless communications frequencies comprise frequencies assigned to a service provider (see p. 1 [0012] and p. 3 [0023]).

Regarding claim 47, Jones teaches a media gateway (see p. 4 [0032] and Fig. 2; shows a media gateway 124) comprising: means for enabling a wireless access point to generate a ring tone at a digital cordless handset (see p. 4 [0032 & 0040], p. 5 [0042 & 0045] and Fig. 2; shows a wireless access point 130 for generating a ring tone at mobile station 10 [i.e. reads on a digital cordless handset]); means for interfacing with a data switch for routing information in a layer of a switching protocol to at least one of a first handset (140) and a second handset (142) (see p. 4 [0032] and Fig. 2; shows a

STP 113 [i.e. reads on a data switch] interfacing with a media gateway 124), means for linking a telecommunications network (PSTN 110) to a wired data network (packet-switched network 122) (see p. 4 [0032] and Fig. 2), the telecommunications network generating a ring tone corresponding to a call at the second handset wherein the digital cordless handset and the second handset using the telecommunications network are assigned a single telephone number (see p. 5 [0045]), the wireless access point (130) being wired to the wired data network (122) (see Fig. 2), the wireless access point (130) communicating with the digital cordless handset (10) via a wireless connection (132) to provide wireless access to the wired data network (122) for the digital cordless handset (10) (see p. 4 [0034-0035] and Fig. 2); and means for receiving the call directed toward the second handset corresponding to the single telephone number on the telecommunication network (see p. 5 [0042 & 0045] and p. 6 [0052]).

Regarding claim 48, Jones teaches all the limitations of claim 47. Jones further teaches the media gateway, wherein the ring tone is generated substantially simultaneously at the digital cordless handset and the second handset (see *Jones*, p. 4 [0041] & p. 5 [0042 & 0045] [i.e. the teaching of Jones that a call to telephones 10, 140 & 142 with the same LDN will ring the telephones 10, 140 & 142 simultaneously meets the limitations of "the ring tone is generated substantially simultaneously at the digital cordless handset and the second handset"]).

Regarding claim 49, Jones teaches all the limitations of claim 47. Jones further teaches the media gateway, wherein the telecommunications network comprises a public switched telephone network (see p. 4 [0032] and Fig. 2; shows a PSTN 110).

Regarding claim 50, Jones teaches all the limitations of claim 49. Jones further teaches the media gateway, wherein the second handset comprises at least one wired handset connected to the public switched telephone network (see p. 5 [0042] and Fig. 2).

Regarding claim 51, Jones teaches all the limitations of claim 47. Jones further teaches the media gateway, wherein the telecommunications network comprises a wireless telecommunications network providing wireless telecommunications on wireless communications frequencies (see p. 3 [0023] and p. 5 [0048]).

Regarding claim 52, Jones teaches all the limitations of claim 51. Jones further teaches the media gateway, wherein the second handset comprises a wireless device communicating with the wireless telecommunications network via the wireless communications frequencies (see p. 3 [0023] and p. 5 [0048]).

Regarding claims 30 and 53, Jones teaches all the limitations of claims 1 and 47. Jones further teaches a system, wherein the means for communicating provides voice-over-internet- protocol (VOIP) service to the digital cordless handset (see p. 1 [0012]).

Regarding claim 54, Jones teaches all the limitations of claim 47. Jones further teaches the media gateway, wherein the wireless access point is wired to the wired data network through a broadband residential gateway comprising a broadband modem and a router, the broadband residential gateway enabling another wireless access point to connect to the wired data network (see p. 4 [0037] and Fig. 2).

Regarding claim 58, Jones teaches all the limitations of claim 1. Jones further teaches the system, wherein the data switch comprises a signal transfer point (STP) (see p. 4 [0032] and Fig. 2; shows a STP 113).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

8. Claims, 32 and 55 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Jones et al., U.S. Publication Number 2004/0219948 A1 (hereinafter Jones)** as applied to claims 1 and 47 above, and further in view of **Haverinen et al., U.S. Patent Number 7,107,620 (hereinafter Haverinen).**

Regarding claims 32 and 55, Jones teaches all the limitations of claims 1 and 47. Jones further teaches a system, wherein the means for communicating requires the subscriber to transmit a valid username, password, PIN number, digital certificate, MAC address, or other code or identifier before granting access (see p. 1 [0049]), but fails to explicitly teach the use of a subscriber identity module SIM information from the digital cordless handset to determine if a user associated with the digital cordless handset is a subscriber to the wired data network.

However the use of a subscriber identity module SIM information from a digital cordless handset to determine if a user associated with the digital cordless handset is a subscriber to a wired data network is very well known in the art as taught for example by Haverinen.

Haverinen teaches authentication in a packet data network, wherein a subscriber identity module SIM information from a digital cordless handset is utilized to determine if a user associated with the digital cordless handset is a subscriber to a wired data network (see abstract and col. 9, lines 46-55).

It would therefore have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Jones with the teachings of Haverinen to include a system, wherein a subscriber identity module SIM information from a digital cordless handset is utilized to determine if a user associated with the digital cordless handset is a subscriber to a wired data network, in order to determine whether to grant access to the wired data network.

Conclusion

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Anthony S. Addy whose telephone number is 571-272-7795. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thur 8:00am-6:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Duc M. Nguyen can be reached on 571-272-7503. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

A.S.A

DUC M. NGUYEN
SUPERVISORY PRIMARY EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600